

The Multiple Identity of Trails - Trails as Urban Parks



California Trails & Greenways Conference 2014

- **Pamela Galera** City of Anaheim
- **Melissa Guerrero** MRCA
- **Jose Gonzalez** Latino Outdoors
- **MaLisa Martin** NPS-RTCA Program

Session Organizers

- **Moira McEnespy** State Coastal Conservancy
- **Patricia Lock-Dawson** Santa Ana River Trail & Parkway

The Need for Urban Parks

- Increased Density
- Increased needs of the community
 - Income
 - Age
 - Culture
 - Ability
 - Interests
 - Health
 - Obesity
 - Asthma
 - Mental health



Needs of the Community

- Exercise
- Transportation
- Socialization
- Quiet contemplation
- People watching
- Nature watching



Examples of projects

- Meet the needs of urban trail users
- Increase property values
- Attract business
- Social connection
- Community building
- Transportation needs



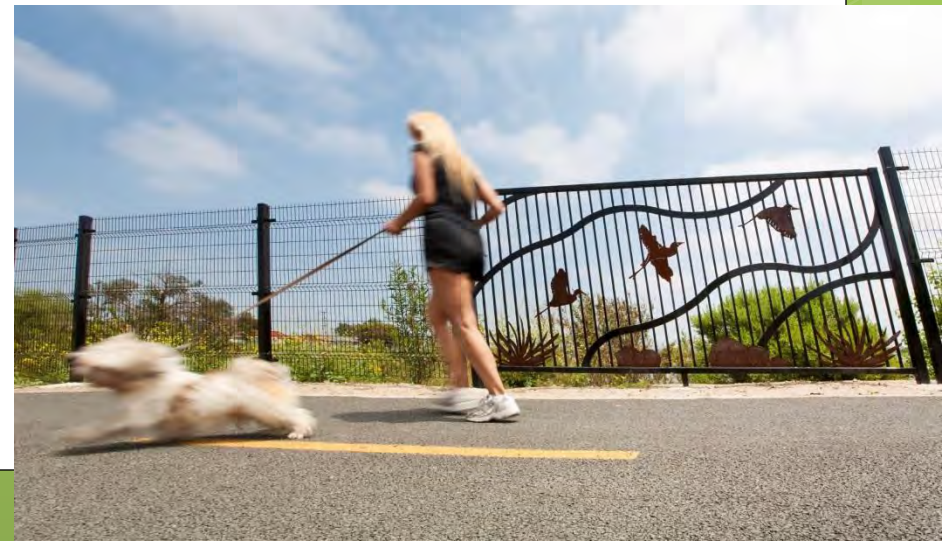
Recommendations

- Environmental Stewardship
- Play pockets
- Seating in shade
- Exercise stations
- Drinking fountains
- Trash cans



Recommendations

- Neighborhood access
- Social Stewardship
- Play pockets
- Interpretive signage
- Art

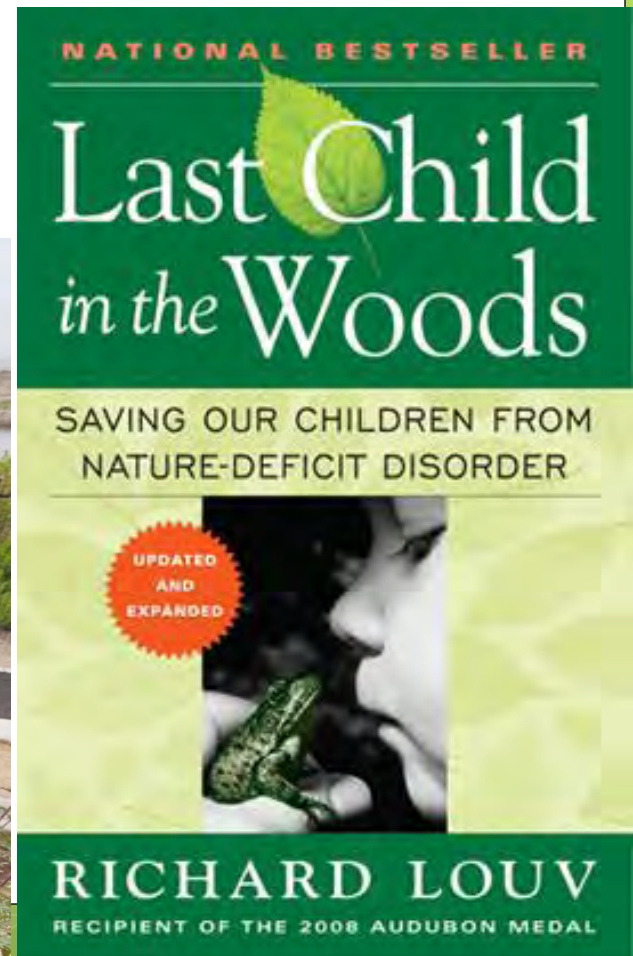


A Source of Nature

- Trails and parks serve as nature for families who cannot plan that big trip to Yellowstone.



Saving Our Families from Nature-Deficit Disorder



April 9, 2014

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all photographs by Hustace

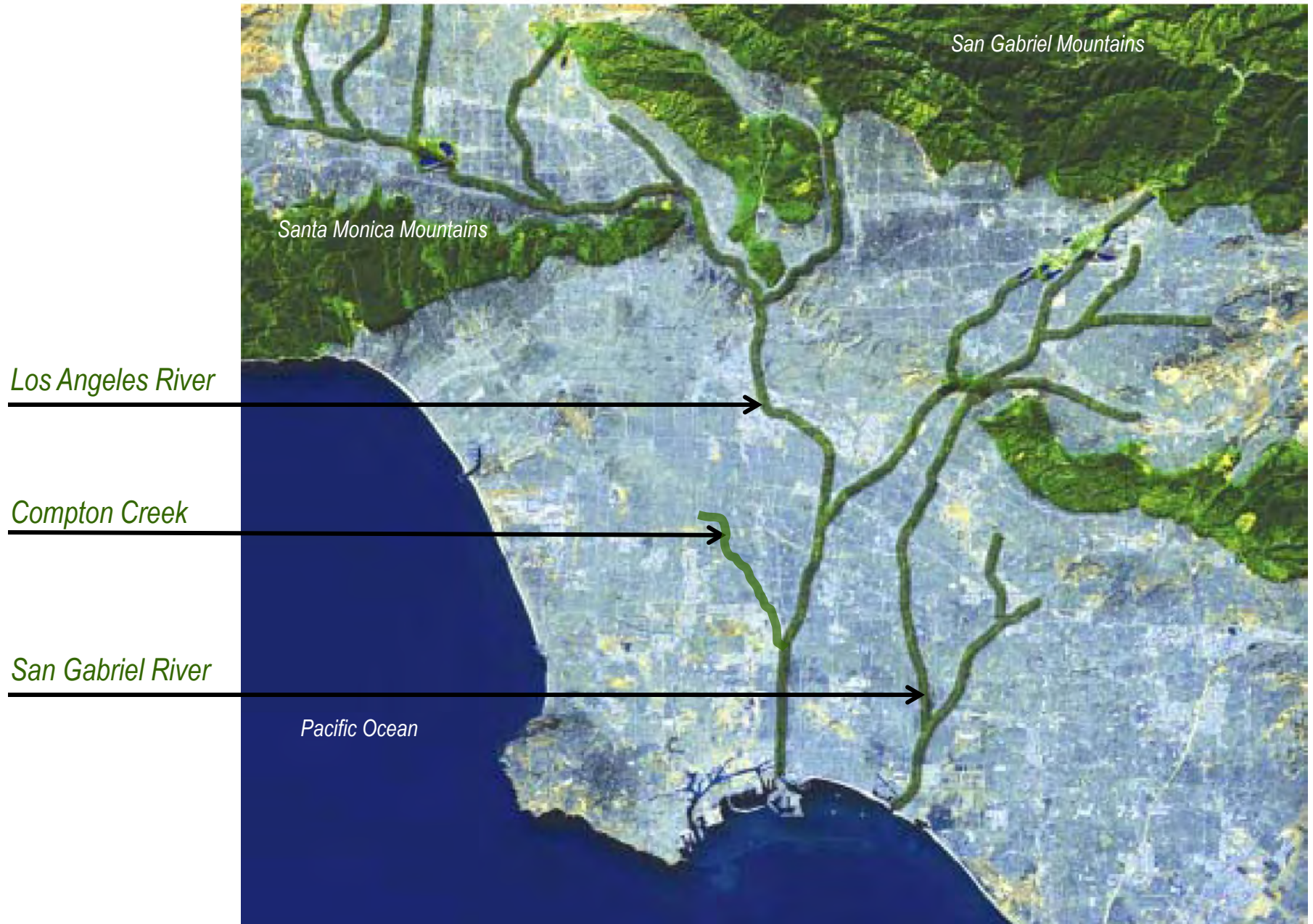


Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy & Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority



To strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural, river parks, open space, trails and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public.

MRCA Agency Policy



The Urban Context



MRCA Urban Projects and Watershed Planning Division

P e r c e p t i o n



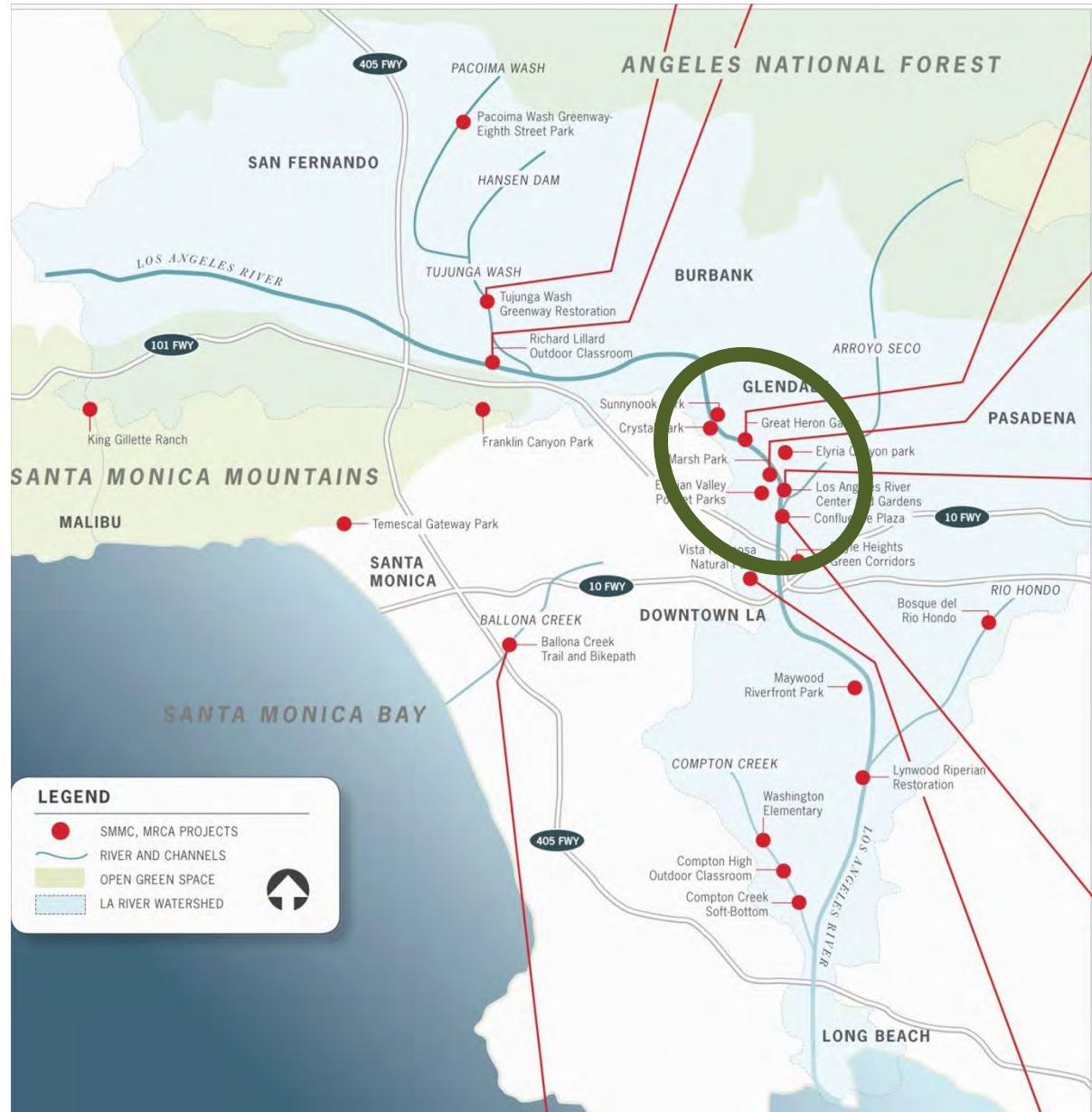
S a f e t y



V a n d a l i s m



D e n s i t y



BEFORE Los Angeles River



PERCEPTION

Partnerships

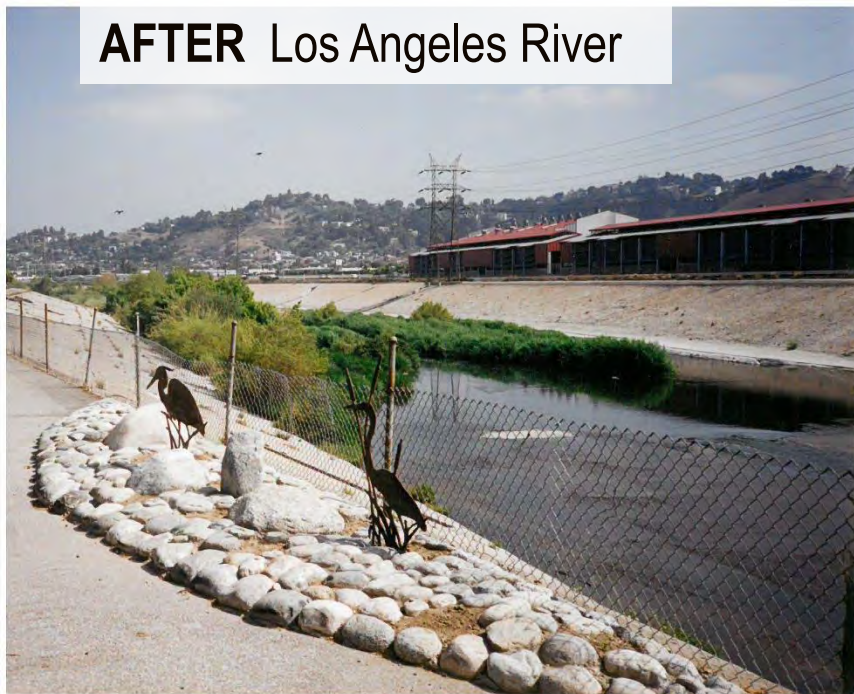
AFTER Great Heron Gates, Los Angeles River



PERCEPTION

Partnerships

AFTER Los Angeles River



PERCEPTION

Partnerships

BEFORE Marsh Park, Los Angeles River



PERCEPTION

Partnerships

AFTER Marsh Park, Los Angeles River



PERCEPTION

Partnerships



AFTER Marsh Park, Los Angeles River



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Marsh Park, Los Angeles River



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

TODAY Los Angeles River



CATALYST

Compton Creek

Perception



Safety



Vandalism



Density



EXISTING CONDITIONS Compton Creek

COMPTON-SOUTH



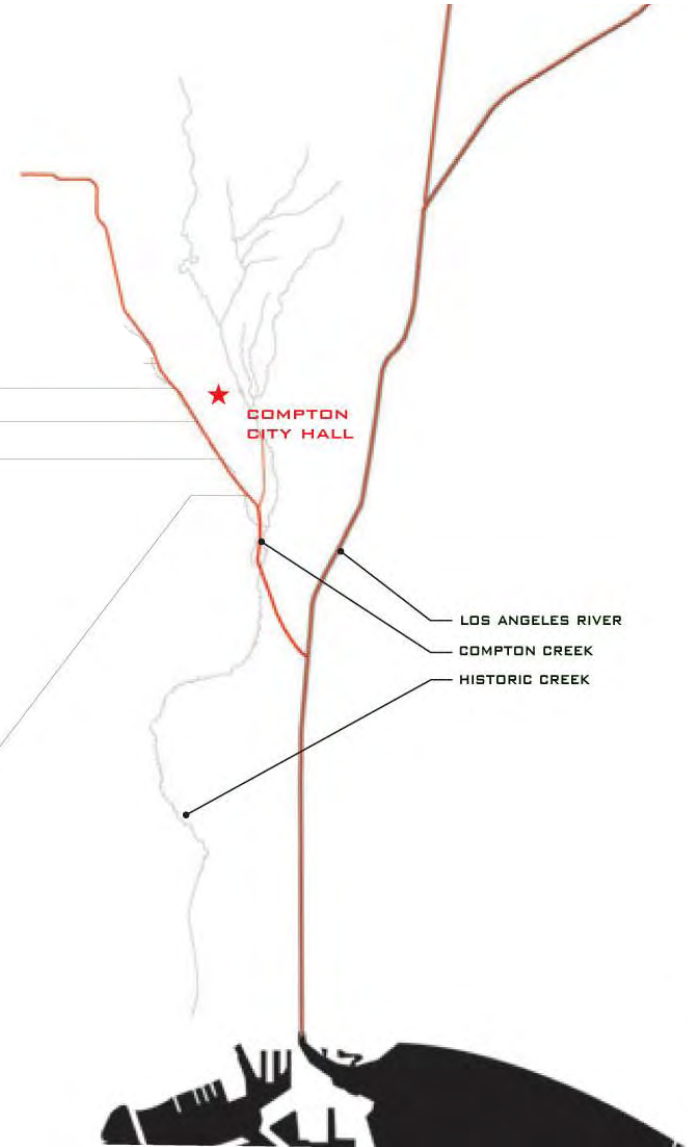
ALONDRA-NORTH



GREENLEAF-NORTH



ARTESIA-NORTH



PERCEPTION

Partnerships

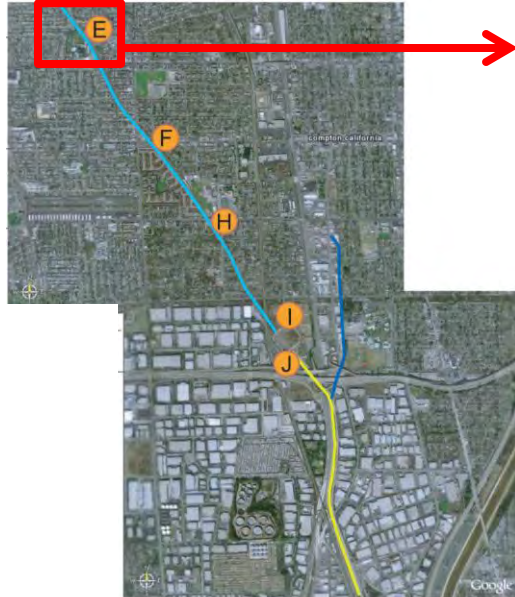
Compton Creek Outdoor Classroom at Compton HS



PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



PERCEPTION

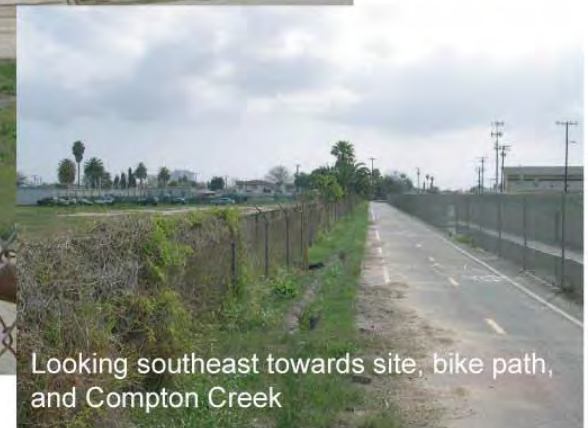
Partnerships

Site **E**

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority



Looking southeast towards site, bike path, and Compton Creek

PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

MRCA Interpretation Division



PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

[illegible]

PARTNERSHIPS

Designed with Community At-large



PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

Los Angeles Conservation Corps

The primary mission of the LA Conservation Corps is to provide at-risk young adults and school-aged youth with opportunities for success by providing them with job skills training, education and work experience with an emphasis on conservation and service projects that benefit the community.



PERCEPTION

PARTNERSHIPS

(+ JOBS!)

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

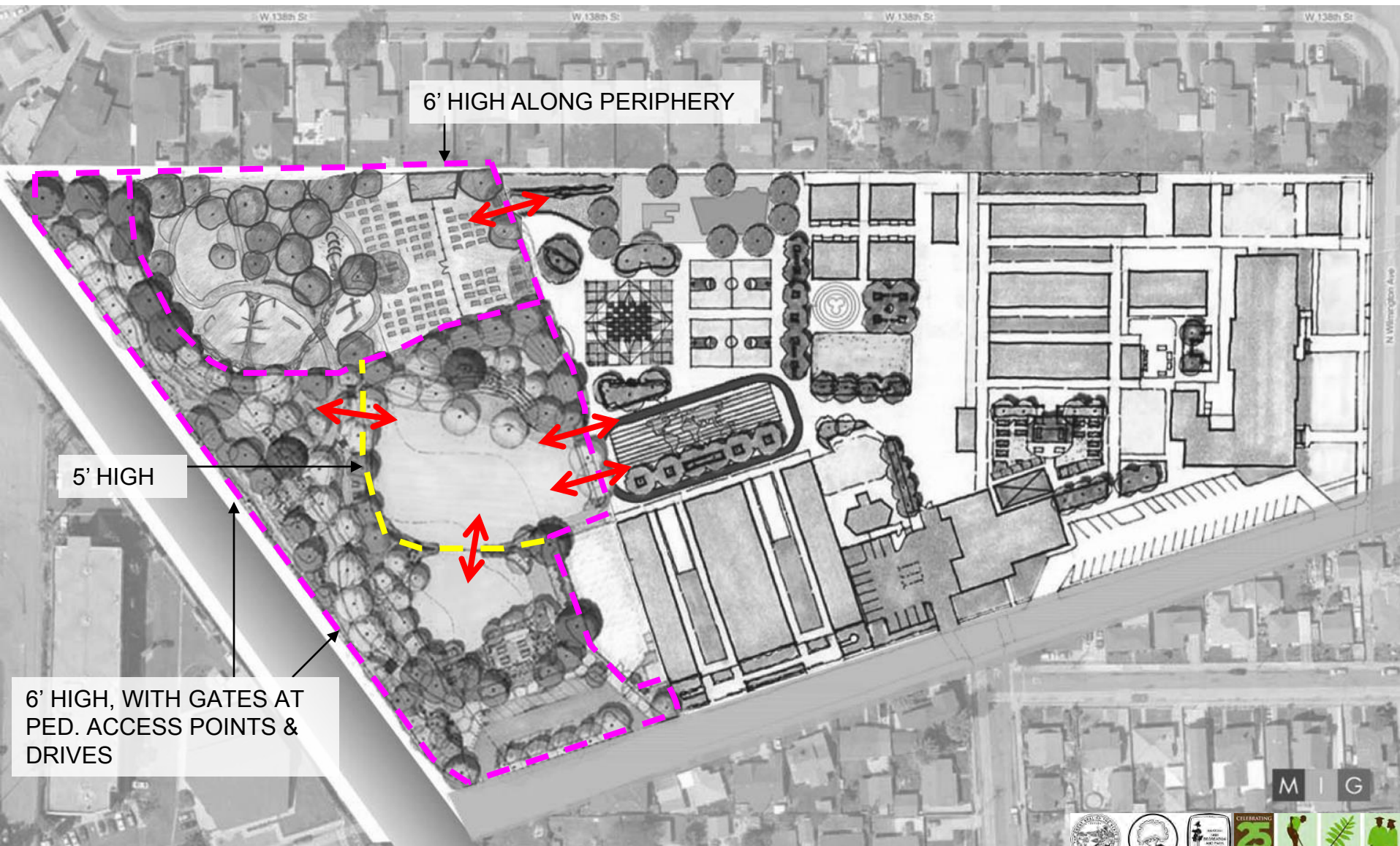
Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



Perception

PARTNERSHIPS

Compton Creek Natural Park at Washington ES



PERCEPTION

Partnerships

Compton Creek



CATALYST

P e r c e p t i o n

- Small Projects = Catalysts
- Involve **Community** Right Away

S a f e t y & V a n d a l i s m

- Activate with Good Uses
- **Good Partners & Programs**
- Simple Design
- Durable Products

D e n s i t y

- Bring Nature to the People
- Lots of Community Workshops



Camminos, Senderos, y Comunidad



To begin...

- How do you say “trail” in Spanish?...
- What does it *mean*?...
- *Vamos a caminar*...

Why Story, what is the story?

- Think about the...
- Latino story (or other community)
- Outdoors story—the *trail* story
- What is the plot?
- Who are the characters? Who are the writers?
- Who are the storytellers? Where does it take place?
- How are they shared? Challenged? Affirmed?

What is the story?



Who are the characters?



Where does it take place?



Why does the story matter?

- Framing
- Validation and affirmation
- “Color-blind” vs...
- Diversity as strength, guided by nature, stories define, connect, empower/disempower
- YO CUENTO



Vamos a caminar...

- *Nos gusta caminar, disfrutar, ir con los hijos...*
- *Queremos estar seguros...ir juntos*



- *"These survey results indicate that some of the most popular **activities** along the trail included sitting/relaxing/resting as well as talking/socializing, while the most popular physical activity was walking."*
- *"Respondents also indicated that their most **important reasons** for visiting the trail were being with friends and family, spending time outdoors, and reducing stress."*

"Park managers are encouraged to consider the family-focused nature of the Latino culture when programming and/or planning...programs and services that allow Latino parents to be physically active with their children should be encouraged."

STODOLSKA, M., SHINEW, K., LI, M.. Recreation Participation Patterns and Physical Activity among Latino Visitors to Three Urban Outdoor Recreation Environments. Journal of Park and Recreation Administration, North America, 28, apr. 2010

How will this look like?



Once upon a time...

- 1. Leadership infrastructure
- 2. Youth—role models and mentors
- 3. Familias
- 4. Storytelling



LATINO OUTDOORS

Connecting Cultura & Communities with Nature, Conservation, and the Great Outdoors

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JOSE GONZALEZ:
FOUNDER AND LEAD

HOW-TO'S

SELECTED PHOTOS AND
GRAPHICS

RECENT POSTS

- ¡Vamos Afuera! Un Evento en Sonoma, California
- On Defining Latino Engagement with the Outdoors
- On Community and Familia with the Outdoors
- Reflecting on Childhood Outdoor Experiences



RECALLING OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

January 12, 2013



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Urban Trails and Youth Engagement in Boyle Heights

Amigos de los Rios
Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA
NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
Program

YMCA Youth Institute

Partnership

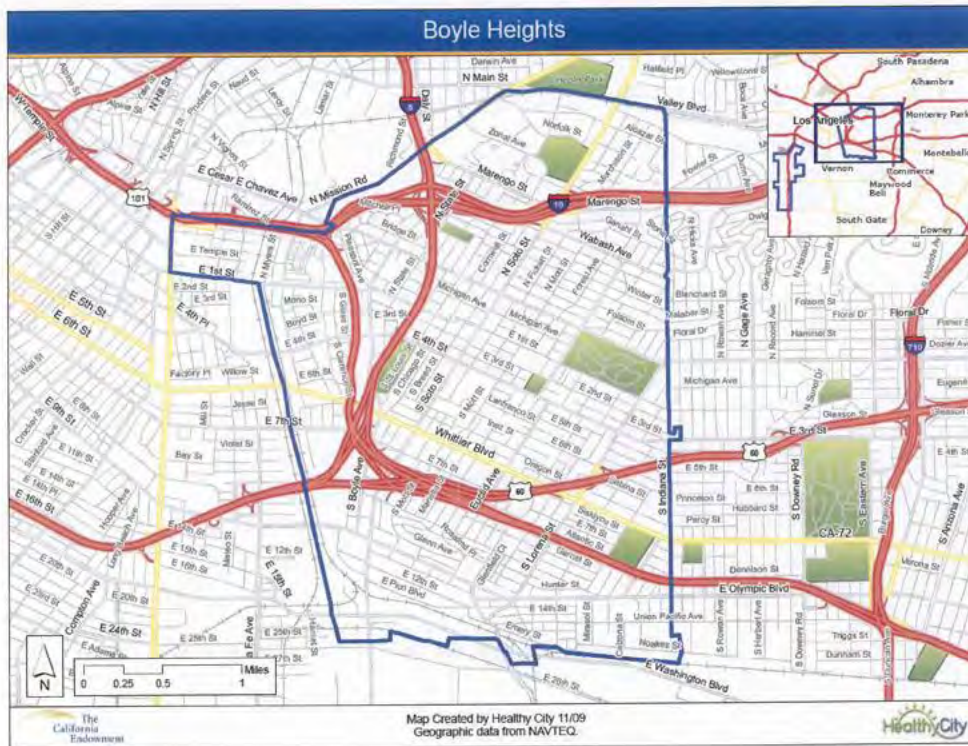
Amigos de los Rios



RTCA



Historic Boyle Heights



Boyle Hotel Historic Monument

Project Outcomes

- Walking Audits
- Map sidewalks that need repairs and trees
- Record historic and public art
- Create walking loops
- Plant trees on tree poor streets



Lucha Reyes
statue, renown
Mariachi singer, in
Mariachi Plaza
Boyle Heights

Walking in LA

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 YEC Mtg	2	3	4	5

Where you walk

YMCA
 Waba Grill - past Soto
 Superior Market - Lorena
 Evergreen & Wabash - Park
 Evergreen Wabash Park,
 Malibu Library, Elementary School
 Hollenbeck Park
 Boyle Heights Park

Take a walk and use this checklist to rate your neighborhood's walkability.
How walkable is your community?

GPS #: E
 Camera #: Camera phone
 Location of walk: _____
 Date: _____
 Organization: _____

1. Street name: First St
 2. Beginning Intersection: First St & Glendale
 Ending Intersection: First St & Chicago
 3. Side of the street: South side
 4. Direction of the walk: East
 5. Time of walk: start: 11:30 finish: _____
 6. Date of Walk: start: 08/29/13 finish: 08/29/13

Who Walked?
 1. Juan Martinez
 2. Adriana Aviles
 3. Dean Duran
 4. Manny Icaza
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____

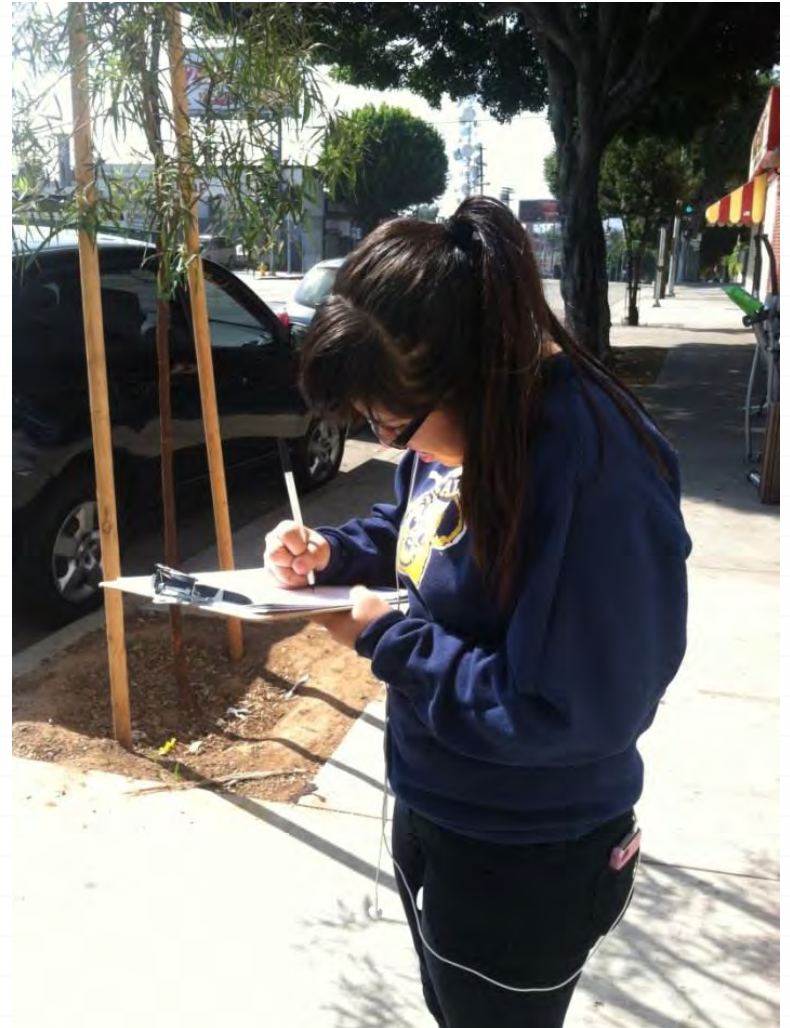
Conditions:
Warm, Sunny, Hot

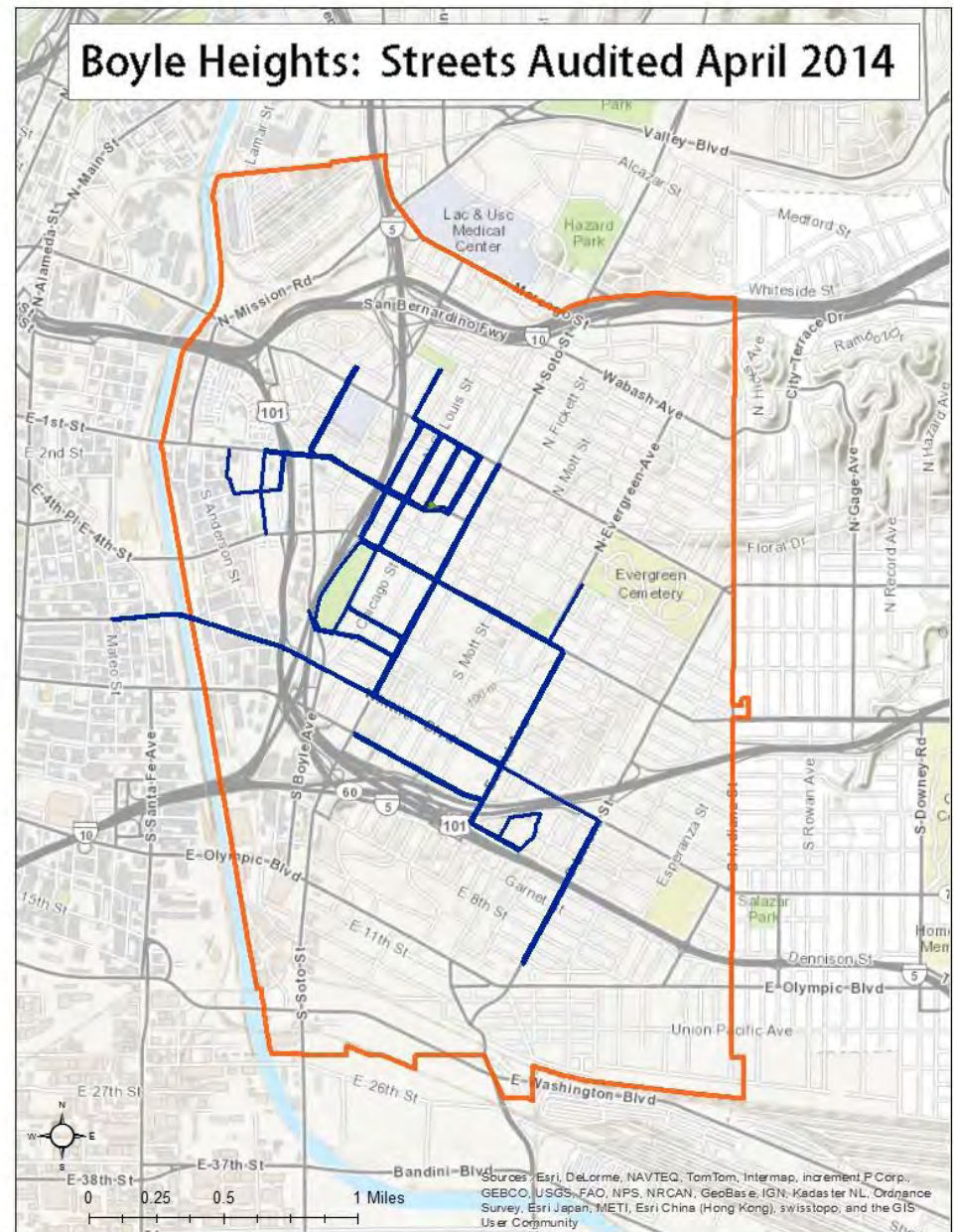
Photos(optional):
 1. Pool
 2. Crack on side walk
 3. sidewalk marks
 4. Markal
 5. Wabash lot
 6. alley way
 7. crack
 8. Murals
 9. Cash lot theater
 Crack

Does this block need more street trees?
☒ Yes ☐ No

Please Describe: Not enough shade

Map routes and Audits





What we found



Broken and
uplifted
sidewalk

Broken
newspaper
stands and other
barriers



Audits



Graffiti



Trash

We also found...



Designing Walking loops



Draft
route

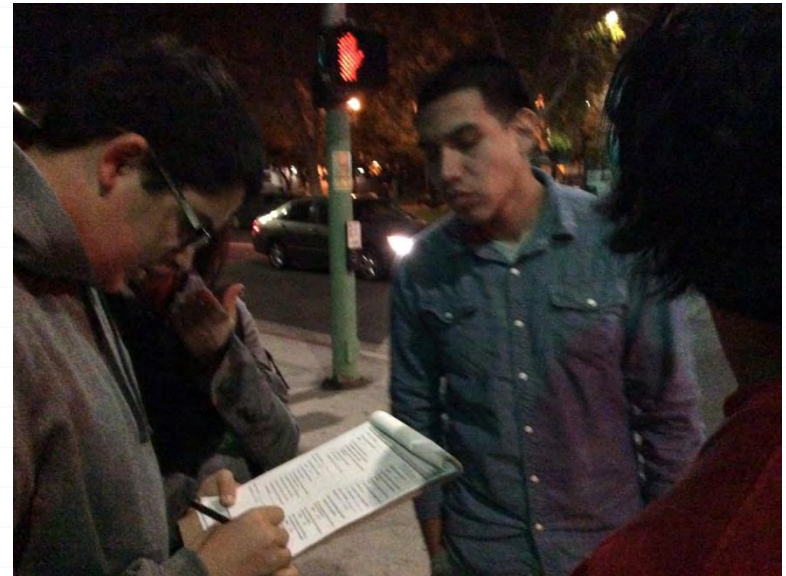
Alternative Spring Break

- o Auditing- day 1
- o Designing- day 2
- o Trees- day 3
 - o Revisiting streets to get signatures for trees
 - o LA Million Trees will supply us with trees to plant



Youth Voices

[Show video](#)





Remember

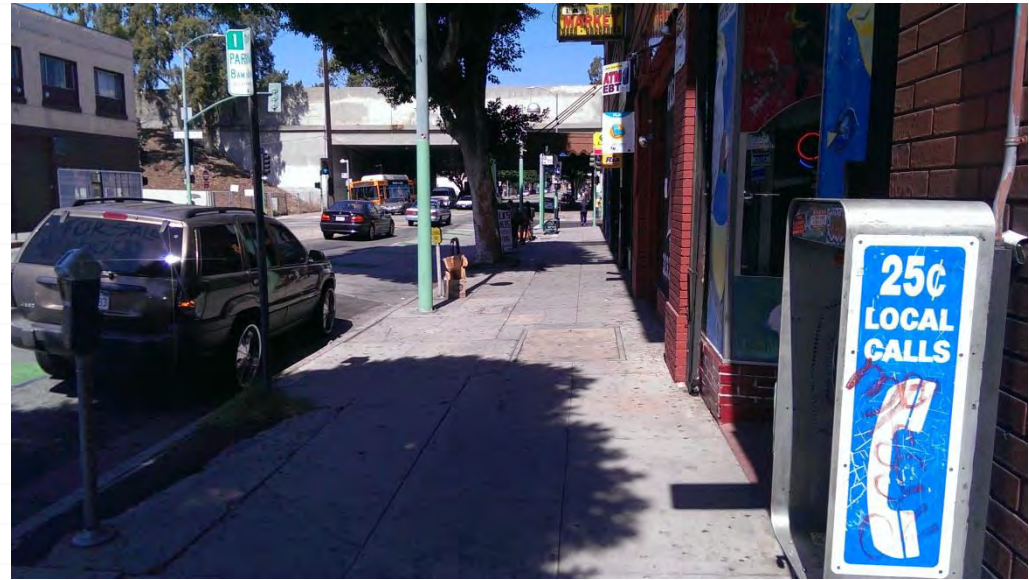
- o Youth partners are really busy, so go with the flow
- o Don't underestimate the youth desire to be involved
- o Make them captains

Donnie, Angel, and Francisco auditing in January

Data Tracking

- ◊ Scanned all the walking audits
- ◊ Shared on Google Drive
- ◊ Uploaded pictures per street
- ◊ Used Google Forms to input data from audits into excel spread sheet
- ◊ Built queries
 - ◊ Streets that need trees
 - ◊ Cracked sidewalks
 - ◊ Trash
 - ◊ Grafitti
- ◊ Also using GIS to support project but starte with youth inputs in google earth

Urban trails will look different, are different but are equally important





Thank-you!
Contact @ RTCA
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